

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 971

By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to recognize John Ferguson on his exemplary service to Tennessee as Commissioner of Finance and Administration.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those distinguished public servants whose contributions to the prosperity of this state during their illustrious tenures in state government can be categorized as nothing short of outstanding; and

WHEREAS, no public servant could be more deserving of this special recognition than John Ferguson, Commissioner of Finance and Administration; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Mississippi State University, Commissioner Ferguson began his sterling career as a marketing representative with IBM Corporation and, in 1971, he co-founded Econocom, a computer sales and leasing firm located in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, John served with probity as president of Jobs for Tennessee Graduates, a youth development training program sponsored by the State of Tennessee and the City of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, he founded the Equity Investment Corporation in Memphis in 1982, and adroitly served as the company's Chief Executive Officer; in 1990, Commissioner Ferguson

became the Chairman and CEO of Community Bancshares, Inc., the parent corporation of the Community Bank of Germantown; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Ferguson joined Governor Sundquist's administration in January 1996, when he was selected to lead the commission responsible for ensuring the state's compliance with the federal court order relative to Arlington Developmental Center; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Commission on Compliance, John Ferguson distinguished himself as a strong advocate for developmentally disabled citizens; he immersed himself in the details of the service and support aspects of appropriate care of Tennessee's developmentally disabled population, and insisted on high medical standards and accountability by the state; and

WHEREAS, the very epitome of the concerned and competent public servant, John Ferguson has also contributed his talents as a member of the State Board of Education and the Governor's Commission on Practical Government; and

WHEREAS, as Tennessee's chief corporate officer, Commissioner Ferguson has directed the preparation and implementation of the state's \$16.6 billion budget; and

WHEREAS, his dedication and commitment to serving Tennesseans, and his proficiency and professionalism have directly resulted in the Department's receipt of numerous awards for excellence in budget preparation, financial reporting, financial management and information systems management; and

WHEREAS, under his astute leadership at the helm of the Department of Finance and Administration, Tennessee has maintained its enviable position as one of the most fiscally responsible states in the country, due in large part to Commissioner Ferguson's adherence to the sagacious philosophy of "doing the right things at the right size"; and

WHEREAS, highly respected by many people in state government, John has distinguished himself as a tireless public servant, working long hours when necessary to accomplish the goals of the Department; and

WHEREAS, John Ferguson can best be described as knowledgeable, fair, and compassionate; he has readily assisted the members of the General Assembly during protracted budget negotiations, not only during session, but also throughout the year, in resolving important issues that will affect Tennesseans for years to come; and

WHEREAS, John is extreme grateful for the love and support of his lovely wife, Carole; their three daughters, Amy Pipes, wife of Wesley Pipes, Julie Ferguson, and Ashley Waltemath, wife of Ward Waltemath; and three grandchildren, Sam, Larkin and Mattie; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a man of John Ferguson's integrity and commitment walks among us, and it is highly fitting that he be honored for his faithful service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Commissioner John Ferguson for his dedicated service to the Department of Finance and Administration and the people of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Commissioner Ferguson with this final clause omitted from such copy.